

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200307

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, FR

SUBJECT: FRANCE AND NON-PROLIFERATION

1. THE DEPARTMENT, ACDA AND AEC ARE ACTIVELY EXAMINING WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPROVING COORDINATION AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES OF CONTROLS OVER NUCLEAR MATERIALS, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE STIMULUS TO A FURTHER SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS REPRESENTED BY THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION AND OTHER FACTORS LEADING TO THE DIFFUSION OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY.

2. CHAIRMAN RAY OF THE AEC WILL THIS WEEK BE ADDRESSING THE SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS IN HER ADDRESS AT THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS IN VIENNA AND SHE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE SOUNDINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRENCH CEA TO ESTABLISH THE CURRENT FRENCH POSITION ON A NUMBER OF SAFEGUARDS ISSUES.

3. AMBASSADOR IRWIN'S DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. IKLE LAST
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WEEK EMPHASIZED THE CRITICAL ROLE WHICH THE FRENCH

POSITION WILL PLAY IN DETERMINING FUTURE PROGRESS TOWARD SIGNIFICANT AND EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS BY MAJOR EXPORTERS OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SIGNS OF POSSIBLE CHANGES OF THE FRENCH POSITION ON NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE ATMOSPHERE, AND ON THE APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS TO EXPORTS OF

SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIALS (VIENNA'S 7279 AND PARIS 13729). WE SUSPECT THAT IN THE COURSE OF THE DEFENSE REVIEW WHICH GISCARD'S GOVERNMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN, FRENCH NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY IN GENERAL HAS BEEN LOOKED AT AND THAT SOME CHANGES IN FRANCE'S NON-PROLIFERATION POSTURE MAY BE POSSIBLE.

5. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE THE MOST UP-TO-DATE READING AND ASSESSMENT OF FRENCH ATTITUDES TOWARD EXPORT AND SAFEGUARDS POLICIES ON NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND MATERIALS; THE PROSPECTS FOR FRENCH ADHERENCE TO THE LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY; AND THE PROSPECTS FOR A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE BY FRANCE IN THE ZANGGER COMMITTEE.

6. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD HOPE THAT AMBASSADOR IRWIN, DESPITE THE PRESSURES UPON HIM DURING THIS PERIOD OF DEPARTURE, WOULD BE ABLE PROFITABLY TO USE HIS SERIES OF FAREWELL CALLS TO ELICIT THE MOST UP-TO-DATE READING OF FRENCH INTENTIONS AND PROSPECTS.

7. TO THE EXTENT THAT WE COULD HAVE A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE FRENCH POSITION PRIOR TO THE VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES TO WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 27, THIS WOULD BE DESIRABLE. KISSINGER

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